WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A document administration apparatus comprising:

document image input means for inputting a
5   document image;

document discrimination information extraction means for extracting document discrimination information from the document image input by said document image input means;

10 ·   authenticity confirmation information generation means for generating authenticity confirmation information by performing a predetermined conversion process to the document discrimination information extracted by said document
15   discrimination information extraction means;

authenticity confirmation information storage means for storing the authenticity confirmation information generated by said authenticity confirmation information generation means in a
20   predetermined storage position connected to a network; and

storage position information embedding means for embedding information indicating the storage position into the document image.

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2. A document administration apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said storage position

information embedding means embeds a digital
watermark into the document image.

3. A document administration apparatus
according to Claim 1, wherein said authenticity
confirmation information generation means generates
the authenticity confirmation information by
performing hash conversion to the document
discrimination information extracted by said document
discrimination information extraction means.

4. A document administration apparatus
according to Claim 1, wherein said authenticity
confirmation information generation means generates
the authenticity confirmation information by
performing hash conversion to the document
discrimination information extracted by said document
discrimination information extraction means and
further generating an electronic signature in regard
to a hash value obtained through the hash conversion.

5. A document administration apparatus
according to Claim 1, wherein said document
discrimination information extraction means includes
area indication means for indicating a document
discrimination information area in the document image,
and extracts as the document discrimination

information a character string obtained by performing character recognition to an image within the document discrimination information area indicated by said area indication means.

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6. A document administration apparatus comprising:

document image input means for inputting a document image;

10 document discrimination information extraction means for extracting document discrimination information from the document image input by said document image input means;

authenticity confirmation information

15 generation means for generating authenticity confirmation information by performing a predetermined conversion process to the document discrimination information extracted by said document discrimination information extraction means;

20 information extraction means for extracting a digital watermark embedded in the document image input by said document image input means;

access means for accessing a point on a network on the basis of information extracted as the digital

25 watermark by said information extraction means; and

authenticity confirmation information comparison means for comparing authenticity

confirmation information stored at the point accessed by said access means with the authenticity confirmation information generated by said authenticity confirmation information generation

5   means.

7.   A document administration apparatus comprising:

document image input means for inputting a

10   document image;

document discrimination information extraction means for extracting document discrimination information from the document image input by said document image input means;

15   authenticity confirmation information generation means for generating authenticity confirmation information by performing a predetermined conversion process to the document discrimination information extracted by said document

20   discrimination information extraction means; and

authenticity confirmation information comparison means for comparing the authenticity confirmation information generated by said authenticity confirmation information generation

25   means with authenticity confirmation information previously stored.

8. A document administration apparatus comprising:

document image input means for inputting a document image;

5   document discrimination information extraction means for extracting document discrimination information from the document image input by said document image input means; and

document discrimination information comparison 10   means for comparing the document discrimination information extracted by said document discrimination information extraction means with document discrimination information previously stored.

15   9. A document administration method comprising:

a document image input step of inputting a document image;

a document discrimination information extraction step of extracting document discrimination 20   information from the document image input in said document image input step;

an authenticity confirmation information generation step of generating authenticity confirmation information by performing a 25   predetermined conversion process to the document discrimination information extracted in said document discrimination information extraction step;

predetermined conversion process to the document

discrimination information extracted in said document

discrimination information extraction step; and

an authenticity confirmation information

5   comparison step of comparing the authenticity

confirmation information generated in said

authenticity confirmation information generation step

with authenticity confirmation information previously

stored.

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